



# News Release

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Kansas City District

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## Army Corps of Engineers offers water safety tips

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers urges recreation seekers to follow safety tips while enjoying water-based activities over the Memorial Day weekend and the summer to lower the risk of accidental death.

Drowning is the Nation's second leading cause of accidental death even though it is possible to reduce drowning deaths by wearing a lifejacket. Approximately 700 recreational boaters die each year due to boating mishaps.

"More than 125,000 boaters are expected to flock to our lakes this Memorial Day weekend, and we want to ensure everyone's visit is enjoyable and safe," said Mitch Frazier, the Corps' public affairs officer for the Kansas City District. "The best way for everyone to enjoy this holiday season is to not drink and boat and to remember life jackets before heading out on the water."

Statistics show that 96 percent of those who drown at Corps lakes may have survived if they had been wearing a life jacket, and more than half of the incidents involved alcohol.

The increasing number of personal watercraft and inexperienced operators are also becoming a concern for waterborne law enforcement. More than 1.3 million personal watercraft are estimated to be in operation in the U.S and about 45% of all boating accidents involve personal watercraft.

For more information, contact Diana McCoy at (816) 983-3487.

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